



A Century of Progress with Pride

For Immediate Release

Presidential Disaster Declaration

August 20, 2010

On August 19, 2010 President Obama declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Illinois including Cook County and Berwyn respectively. Furthermore, President Obama ordered federal aid to supplement recovery efforts of individuals struck by the severe storms and flooding between the period of July 22nd and August 7th of 2010.

Mayor Robert J. Lovero applauds the cooperative effort between the City of Berwyn, the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Since the storm on July 22nd, they all worked cooperatively to reach the ultimate goal of having President Obama sign a disaster declaration for Cook County, thus creating the possibility of financial help for those residents affected. Mayor Lovero would also like to recognize and thank State Representative Lisa Hernandez and Congressman Lipinski and his colleagues in the Illinois Congressional delegation for their assistance during this process; they collectively urged President Obama to make this disaster declaration.

With the signing of the disaster declaration, which encompasses the City Berwyn, money may be available for homeowners to repair damage from the disaster that is not covered by their insurance. FEMA will not pay to return a home to its condition before the disaster. The goal is to repair homes to a safe and sanitary living or functioning condition. FEMA may provide up to \$9,900 for home repair; the homeowner may then apply for a Small Business Administration Disaster Loan for additional repair assistance. Repair and replacement items in part include:

- Structural parts of a home (foundation, outside walls, roof)
- Windows, doors, floors, walls, ceilings, cabinetry
- Septic or sewage system
- Well or other water system
- Heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system
- Utilities (electrical, plumbing, and gas systems)
- Entrance and exit ways from the home, including privately owned access roads

Flood insurance may be required if the home is in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

The President's declaration makes individual assistance and hazard mitigation assistance available. Berwyn flood victims will need to apply for aid to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which determines eligibility. Berwyn residents and businesses who sustained losses can apply by registering with FEMA online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY (800) 462-7585 for individuals with speech or hearing disabilities. The FEMA toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

Berwyn residents who previously provided their information and damage assessment to the Berwyn Command Center **must re-apply** with FEMA. The information provided to the City of Berwyn was only compiled for the purpose of submitting an initial damage assessment with the goal of attaining a presidential declaration.

Mayor Robert J. Lovero would like to thank you for your patience and cooperation. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Detective David Green at 708-795-5600 or via e-mail at dgreen@ci.berwyn.il.us.

